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ABSTRACT

This book brings together ideas and strategies of prominent advocates of school reform. Discussing their experiences, especially in urban schools, in forming coalitions, framing court cases, and dealing with state politics in New Jersey, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Alabama, Kentucky, and Washington, the contributors to this collection explore what succeeded and what failed in the search for educational equity. Contributions explore constitutional issues and legal reform, the political agenda of education in selected states, stakeholders for equity reform, and engaging the community. After the introduction, "The Ends and the Means in Education Policy" (Marilyn Gittell and Laura McKenna), the following chapters are included: (1) "Post-'Brown' School Finance Reform" (Kirk Vandersall); (2) "School Finance Reform and the Alabama Experience" (Helen Herschkoff); (3) "Intradistrict Resource Disparities: A Problem Crying Out for a Solution" (Peter D. Roos); (4) "More than Equal: New Jersey's Quality Education Act" (Thomas Corcoran and Nathan Scovronick); (5) "The Role of State Legislatures in School Finance Reform: Looking Backward and Looking Ahead" (John Augenblick); (6) "Steady Work: The Courts and School Finance Reform in New Jersey (Margaret E. Goertz); (7) "Charter Schools and Tax Reform in Michigan" (Thomas Vitullo-Martin); (8) "Necessary but Not Sufficient: Moving from School Finance Reform to Education Reform in Washington State" (Martha Darling); (9) "School Reform in New York and Chicago: Revisiting the Ecology of Local Games" (Marilyn Gittell); (10) "Linking Civic Capacity and Human Capital Formation" (Clarence N. Stone); (11) "Power and Perseverance: Organizing for Change in Texas" (Albert Cortez); (12) "The Prichard Committee and Kentucky School Reform" (Robert F. Sexton); and (13) "Advocacy To Restructure the Chicago Public Schools through State Legislation" (Donald R. Moore). A conclusion "Creating School Reform Agenda for the Twenty-first Century" by Marilyn Gittell, brings the various themes together. Each chapter contains references. Part 1 (chapters 1-4) contains an appendix, "The Courts and Equity: A State-by-State Overview." (SLD)